The innovative technology of hydro-pneumatic sand stowing is being given field trial in two localities. In order to establish this technology through experience gained over a wider area, two more localities have been taken up for this purpose.

A few sites in different subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited have been identified for carrying out environmental and subsidence control measures relating to reclamation/rehabilitation of mined out areas, fire areas and stabilisation of underground voids in Raniganj Coalfield.

Foodgrain reserves in Central Pool

1072. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrain reserves in the Central Pool as on 31st October, 1996;

(b) whether the foodgrain stock is being reduced due to continuous export of wheat and rice; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to meet the requirement of foodgrains in case of any famine trap alongwith details?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool as on 31.10.96 is estimated as under:

(In Million Tonnes)

Wheat	Rice	Total
9.54	11.60	21.14

(b) No, Sir. During 1996-97, Govt. has authorised the FCI to export/sell for the purpose of export only a quantity of upto 5 lakh tonnes of wheat against the carry over commitment made in 1995-96 and upto 5 lakh tonnes of fine & superfine rice including the carry over commitment made in 1995-96. Against this authorisation, FCI has sold for the purpose of export a quantity of about 4.43 lakh tonnes of wheat and about 0.52 lakh tonnes of rice only upto 31.10.1996.

(c) Does not arise.

अतिरिक्त श्रमिकों के पुनर्वास के लिये राष्ट्रीय नवीकरणीय कोष

1073. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या राष्ट्रीय नवीकरणीय कोष की स्थापना अतिरिक्त श्रमिकों को स्वैच्छिक सेवा-निवृत्ति योजना के अंतर्गत प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने के बाद सरकारी क्षेत्र में कार्यरत संगठनों में उनका पुनर्वास करने के लिए की गई थी;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) उक्त कोष से धन आहरण के पश्चात् कुल कितने श्रमिकों को मार्च, 1996 के अन्त तक प्रशिक्षित किया गया था;

(घ) उनमें से कितने श्रमिकों का पुनर्वास किया गया; और

(ङ) मार्च, 1996 तक ऐसी प्रशिक्षण प्रणाली और अन्य श्रमिक कल्याण परियोजना पर उपरोक्त कोष में से कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गई और इस कोष की कितने प्रतिशत धनराशि व्यय की गई है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री एम. अरूणाचलम): (क) और (ख) भारतीय उद्योग के औद्योगिक पुनगर्ठन, प्रौद्योगिकी उन्नयन और आधुनिकीकरण से प्रभावित हुए कर्मकारों के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा तन्त्र मुहैया कराने के लिए फरवरी, 1992 में सरकार द्वारा राष्ट्रीय नवीकरण निधि की स्थापना की गई थी। इसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ प्रभावित कर्मकारों को सलाह देने, पुनर्प्रशिक्षण और पुनर्नियोजन के लिए सहायता की परिकल्पना है।

(ग) और (घ) अब तक, विभिन्न नोडीय अभिकरणों द्वारा सर्वेक्षण के अन्तर्गत कुल 60,075 कर्मकारों को परिधि में लिया गया है जिसमें से 28,800 कर्मकारों को सलाह, पुनर्प्रशिक्षण और पुनर्नियोजन के लिए सहायता उपलब्ध करायी गई है।

(ङ) 31.3.96 की स्थिति के अनुसार कर्मकारों को सलाह देने, पुनर्प्रशिक्षण और पुनर्नियोजन संबंधी योजनाओं पर 8.54 करोड़ रुपये की राशि व्यय की गई है जो इसी अवधि के लिए राष्ट्रीय नवीकरण निधि से खर्च की गई कुल निधि का 0.5 प्रतिशत है।

Surplus steel stock with SAIL

1074. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a million tonne steel is lying with SAIL,

(b) whether it is a fact that a substantial quality of steel is also lying with the steel plant; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to dispose of these stocks?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. About 1 million tone stocks are lying at stockyards and plants at Bokaro, Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur put together.

Details of stocks, as on 01.11.1996, are as under:—

(000 T)

	01.11.1996
Stocks at Plants	189.4
Stocks at Stockyards	810.1
Total Stocks	999.5

Measures taken to dispose of these stocks include vigorous customer contact and follow-up of individual customer orders for affecting speedier delivery, orienting product mix to suit market needs and adjusting production as per market requirements, arranging stock transfer from one branch to another to meet requirements of various customers, adopting strategic pricing depending upon market segment, competition and quantity linked bulk purchases, maximising exports of some categories to bring down the stock levels, etc.

Elimination of child labour in India

1075. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have an estimate of the number of child labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to eliminate child labour by 2000 A.D.; and

(d) if so, in what manner this target would be realised?

*THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) According to 1981 census, the total number of working children in India was 13.6 million. As per the 43rd round of National Sample Survey conducted in 1987-88, the total number of working children increased to 17.02 million. It is estimated that presently there would be around 20 million working children in the country. Out of this, around two million children are estimated to be working in hazardous occupations.

(c) and (d) The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) announced by the government seeks to eliminate child labour from all occupations and industries and make free and compulsory elementary education a fundamental right. To begin with, Government is engaged in the task of rehabilitation of about two million children working hazardous occupations. Under the programme, the children working in hazardous occupations are rehabilitated by putting them in special schools where they are provided with non-formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition and health check. So far, 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned for rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children.

Procurement of wheat on a staggered basis

1076. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision on the question of procuring wheat on a 'staggered' basis has been taken;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when the decision is expected to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) With a view to easing pressure on storage space, due to high levels of procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool, particularly during the period of 1993-96 Rabi seasons for wheat and 1993-94 and 1994-95 kharif seasons for paddy/rice a suggestion was made for procurement of foodgrains in a staggered manner with graduated price structure. Subsequently procurement of wheat during 1996-97 Rabi marketing season has come down to 81.82 lakh